News

Whole Foods fires employee after she shared post on social media slamming her Philadelphia store for giving cops free food during Black Lives Matter protests

233 comments

By Ariel Zilber For Dailymail.com
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News

- **Her location shares the same building with a Philadelphia police station**
- **On June 1, Whole Foods gave food to police manning Black Lives Matter protest**
- **Murray and other employees at the store posted graphic on social media**
- **Graphic urged public to call company hotline and complain**
- **Murray said she was then interrogated by company-hired security officials**
- **A day after she was questioned for two hours, Murray says she was fired**

A Whole Foods employee at one of its downtown Philadelphia locations was fired after she posted a graphic on her social media demanding that it stop providing free food and water to police officers who were on duty during **Black Lives Matter** protests.

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Megan Murray, 22, spent nearly two years as an employee of the Whole Foods supermarket on Philadelphia's South Street. This particular location shares the same building as a police station.

Murray claims her firing was retaliation for her social media post which protested the store's free food to police officers.

But the Amazon-owned company denies this, telling **Vice** that Murray had committed a 'major infraction' which included 'behavior and language that is threatening, vulgar, and obscene towards a Team Member.'

The company did not specify what the 'major infraction' was.

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An employee at a Whole Foods in downtown Philadelphia (above) was fired on social media protesting the store for giving police officers free food dur Matter protest on June 1

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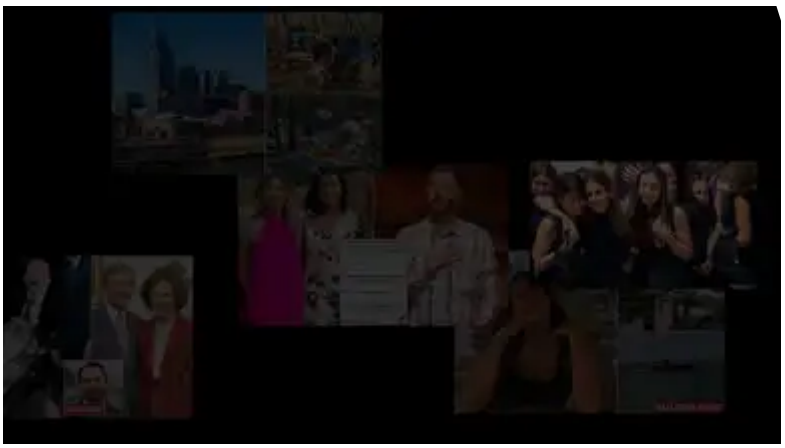
Last week, employees at the supermarket learned that the store's team officers free food and water during the Black Lives Matter protests.



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A friend of Murray's who also worked at the store created a graphic that reads 'Tell Whole

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A Whole Foods on South Street is feeding Philly police, the graphic reads. 'These cops are beating, tear gassing, pepper spraying and murdering us.

'Demand they stop now!'

The graphic then invites readers to call a phone number to complain. There is also a web address where people can leave complaints.

Murray and others circulated the graphic on social media.

A Whole Foods spokesperson told Vice that the store did give police food on June 1, when everyone inside was told to evacuate since the protests were nearing the location.

'As we closed down our store, we offered the remaining prepared food and some water to the police officers who were on-site helping us to quickly and safely evacuate the store,' the spokesperson told Vice.

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'There were no subsequent donations.'

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Murray told **The Guardian** that she and other co-workers began sharing the graphic after learning that their store was giving police free food.

'Around June 4th and 5th, team members started making public posts about i

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The graphic encouraged people to leave messages at a company hotline or online protesting the decision

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0:00 / 2:45

'At that point, I started sharing some of those posts and started talking
a response.'

'That Friday I went back into work after I shared that stuff, and that was w
me in for an investigation.'

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On June 7, Murray said she and other employees were questioned by two memb
Whole Foods' Global Asset Protection team, which is in charge of handling security ma

Murray told Vice she was interrogated for more than two hours. During the session, investigators showed her a screenshot of a separate graphic that was posted to her private Instagram story page.

The investigators told Murray that this unseen post posed a threat to the store.

'They put me on administrative leave and called me 24 hours later to tell me I was fired,' she said.

Murray said she tried to explain that her social media posts urged people to call the company hotline, and not her specific store.

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‘I tried to explain that this graphic was a PR thing,’ Murray said.

‘It said to call the corporate customer service line, not our store.

‘But [the investigators] mentioned a California Whole Foods getting loote
presented a legitimate threat to our store.’

A Whole Foods spokesperson told Vice that Murray was fired for a sepa
the one that was circulated widely online.

‘The Team Member was not separated as a result of this graphic, nor wa
brought up during any of the conversations with the former Team Membe
spokesperson said.

‘To suggest otherwise is completely false.

‘She was presented with evidence unrelated to this graphic that showed clear vio
our policies against behavior and language that is threatening, vulgar and obscene towa
a Team Member and was separated as a result.’

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The Whole Foods spokesperson continued: 'We recognize employees' rig
themselves, however we do not tolerate behavior or language that is obsc
threatening or vulgar directed towards Team Members or Team Leaders, ar
any kind very seriously.

'The Team Member was separated due to a major infraction, which we investigated
was brought to our attention by fellow Team Members.

'We have a zero-tolerance policy for any retaliation, and we followed standard company practices when investigating the Team Member's infractions and throughout the separation process.'

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According to Vice, at least four other employees posted graphics to their social media against the store's providing of free food to police.

They believe Murray was being singled out because she had been active in ye
to get workers at the store to unionize.

'I feel like management has been trying to fire Megan for a while because
been trying to push for union status,' a worker from the Philadelphia loca

'Their firing feels retaliatory for sure, and like they're trying to cover the

In March and May, Murray tried to organize a company-wide walkout na
increased protections for workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In late May, Whole Foods fired an employee at one of its locations in Sou

The employee created a running COVID-19 count of Whole Foods employe
protest against the company's refusal to report positive cases in stores.

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Murray and the other fired employee were members of Whole Worker, a grassroo
organization made up of Whole Foods employees around the country.

On March 30, Whole Foods' parent company, Amazon, fired Christian Smalls, a warehouse employee at a Staten Island fulfillment center who organized a strike to protest work conditions at the plant.

Amazon claimed he was fired for violating a 14-day quarantine after coming into contact with an employee who tested positive for COVID-19.

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Weeks later, another Amazon employee at the same warehouse, Gerald Bryson, was reportedly fired for protesting working conditions.

Amazon claims Bryson, who like Smalls is black, was terminated for using vulgar language.

At around the same time, Bashir Mohamed, an employee at an Amazon warehouse in Shakopee, Minnesota, was fired as 'a result of progressive disciplinary action for inappropriate language, behavior, and violating social distancing guidelines,' according to the company.

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Mohamed claims he was made a scapegoat due to his years-long efforts to obtain ... work conditions at the facility.

BLM

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